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**The Missions of California and The Old Southwest.** By **Jesse S. Hildrup.** ix and 100 pp., 35 Illustrations from Photographs. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1907.

This is the story, briefly told, of the old missions in California and the western wilderness, where the Catholic fathers gave their pure and unselfish labours to the amelioration of the moral and social condition of the Indians. The missions had their round of struggle, triumph and decline, and, as the author says, "millions of men have both rejoiced and mourned over the bright career of the fathers and its fateful ending." The author writes of the old padres, the humane work they advanced so far and the rich properties which they created through toil, privation, and danger.

It was in 1833 that the Mexican Government passed the order of confiscation. The religion and morals of the missions were swept away, the Indian neophytes fled to the mountains and their short-lived civilization disappeared forever. The Mission buildings are still the monuments of the work. Some of them are little more than heaps of ruins, while others are in an admirable state of preservation. Many large photographs show the great buildings or the heaps of ruins.

**America's Insular Possessions.** By **C. H. Forbes-Lindsay.** Two volumes. vi and 551 pp., and ix and 566 pp., many Illustrations, and Indices. The John C. Winston Co., Philadelphia, 1906.

A successful compilation of facts relating to our insular possessions which should be at the command of all intelligent citizens. The work is well done, and may be commended with confidence as a compendium of accurate information presented in a readable style—an authoritative, popular book on the subject. The author has made careful use of the best data, and the facts are interestingly set forth.

Ample space is assigned to each possession for adequate though concise treatment of it. The introductory chapter gives an historical account of Cuba, Porto Rico, Haiti, and Jamaica which is justified by our intimate relations with the alien islands of the Greater Antilles and their historical and commercial connection with Porto Rico. Porto Rico has 118 pages, Guam 78, Hawaii 99, and the Isthmus of Panama and Canal Project 214. The entire second volume is given to the Philippines. The geographical treatment is accurate, but would have been more scientific if based upon the geology of the islands. This might have been done without impairing the readability of the text. The book should have been supplied with good maps. A work dealing so largely with geography should not compel its readers to go outside for essential map material. The only maps are one of the Panama canal and a poor little sketch of Guam which does not indicate some of the important geographical names in the text. Of the five towns mentioned as the termini of the few good roads the position of two is not shown. The photogravures are excellent.

**Notes upon the Island of Dominica.** By **Symington Grieve.** 126 pp., 17 Illustrations, Map, Appendix and Index. Adam & Charles Black, London, 1906. (Price, 2s. 6d.)

This little island seems to be one of the least hackneyed and familiar bits of land in the West Indies. The author went there, last year, to study its flora and fauna. He found that the interior of Dominica, which is only about